

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks. Claims 1-26 are currently pending in this application, of which claims 1, 15, 20, and 24 are independent. In the Office Action dated November 8, 2005, claims 24-26 were allowed, claims 1, 10-15, 17-20, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and claims 2-9, 16, and 21 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were otherwise indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 24-26 and for indicating claims 2-9, 16, and 21 as containing allowable subject matter. In order to expedite allowance of the rejected independent claims 1, 15, and 20 and without specifically addressing the novelty of these claims over the prior art under which they were rejected, claims 1, 15, and 20 have been amended to incorporate at least one of the features of the allowable dependent claims 2-8. Accordingly, Applicant submits that amended independent claims 1, 15, and 20 are allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 2-8 were indicated as being allowable. Claims 2-14, 16-19, and 21-23 depend from amended claims 1, 15, and 20 and are, therefore, also allowable at least for being dependent upon allowable base claims.

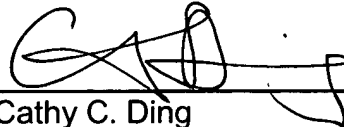
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: May 8, 2006

By: 
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